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Black History In Pennsylvania



Activities at a black Y.M.C.A. branch, Phila., 1944

A Conference Sponsored by the
Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission

at

Allegheny County Community
College

808 Ridge Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

on

April 5th and 6th 1979

CO-SPONSORS:

Allegheny County Community College,
Department of Black, Minority and Ethnic Studies

Association for the Study of
Afro-American Life and History, Pittsburgh Branch

PROGRAM

Thursday, April 5, 1979

SESSION I: 10:00 - 12:00 A.M. — Theatre

Early Black Education In Pennsylvania

"The Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia: An Argument for the Race"

Linda Perkins, Paterson College

"The Nineteenth Century Education of Afro-Americans In Pittsburgh and Allegheny City: Path Toward Equality?"

Ann G. Wilmoth, Lancaster County Bureau of Planning

"The Southern Background: Meaning of Black Land-Grant Education to the Urban North"

Joel Schor, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Moderator: Shirley T. Parham
Afro-American Historical and Cultural
Museum/Philadelphia
Board of Education

12:10 — 2:00 P. M. — Luncheon and Awards for Achievement in Black History — Student Lounge

Presiding: William J. Wewer
Executive Director, Pennsylvania
Historical and Museum Commission

Greetings: Edna McKenzie, Allegheny County
C.C.
Pres. A.S.A.L.H., Pittsburgh Branch

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker:
William J. Wewer, PHMC

Keynote Address: Honorable K. LeRoy Irvis
Pennsylvania General
Assembly

Award's Presentations by Dr. Jody Harris, West
Chester State College

Recipients: Selma Burke, Sculptress
Walter Worthington, Historian

SESSION II: 2:10 — 4:10 P.M. — Theatre

The Emerging Black Community In Modern Pennsylvania

**"Development of Black Churches in Western
Pennsylvania"**

Dennis C. Dickerson, Williams College

**"Bishop Richard R. Wright, Jr. of Philadelphia and
His Early Contributions to The Nature of Social
Studies"**

Carlos Brossard, University of Pittsburgh
David Fast, Pittsburgh

"New Black Arrivals and The Pittsburgh Urban League: 1918-1930"
Peter Gottlieb, University of West Virginia

"On Working In Communications: Black Women In Pittsburgh"
Emma T. Lucas, Chatham College
Henrietta Adams, Philadelphia

Moderator: Deirdre Bibby
Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Philadelphia

Moderator: Cyril Griffith
Penn. State University

SESSION III: Film Program 7:00 — 9:00 P.M.
HILLHOUSE (short drive from campus)
1835 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh

The Life and Legacy of Paul Robeson
Presentation by Charles Blockson, Norristown
Film: "The Tallest Tree In the Forest"

Moderator: Emery Wimbish, Jr.
Lincoln University

Friday, April 6, 1979

SESSION IV: 8:30 — 10:20 A.M. — Student Lounge
Public School Curriculum Development
On Pennsylvania Black History

"Revising Pennsylvania History In the Elementary Social Studies Curriculum"
Jane M. Madsen, Penna. State University
Ron Straiges, Philadelphia School District

"Black History and Culture In Secondary Education"
Ida B. Minnie
Ringgold School District, Pa.

"Black History and The Public School Curriculum"
Barbara DuPont Spence
N.E.A./Black Caucus Reg., Dir. Mass.

Moderator: Dr. Curtis Walker
Pittsburgh Board of Education

SESSION V: 10:30 A.M. — 12:30 P.M. — Student Lounge
Black Literature and Art

"Social Impressions In the Paintings of Horace Pippin"
Beverly G. Peteet
University of Pittsburgh

"Robert Penny's Contribution to Theatre and Literature"
Vernell A. Lillie
University of Pittsburgh

"Homewood (Pittsburgh) of Yesteryear: Perspectives From A Contemporary Writer and Scholar"
John Wideman
University of Wyoming

SESSION VI: 1:30 — 3:30 P.M. — Student Lounge
Black Genealogy, Collection and Research

"Collecting Rare Materials On Black History and Genealogy"
Charles Blockson

"Unsung Descendent of The American Revolution: A Black Woman's Genealogical Experiences In Pennsylvania"
Karen Farmer, Afro-American Museum of Detroit

"Ideology of Black History In Lancaster County"
Leroy T. Hopkins
Urban League of Lancaster, Pa.

Moderator: Wendell Wray,
University of Pittsburgh

The Conference Focus

Many believe that the 1970's has been a period of mediocrity or "benign neglect" as far as black community problems are concerned. Our current period seems to parallel others like Post-Reconstruction or the late 1950's when the black predicament fell from wide popular concern. Yet, through all such periods, the black community in Pennsylvania and nationally has remained vibrant in cultural and self-help activities. This conference will focus primarily on the historical character of the Pennsylvania black community. It will, at the same time, highlight the contributions of blacks to literature, art, religious life, education and cultural research in Pennsylvania.

The bulk of the Commonwealth's modern black population were Southern migrants. Thus, aspects of the Southern educational and social background of these newcomers will receive attention, as will their experiences immediately after settling in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania also has had a "traditional" black population with a heritage reaching back to the colonial period. Thus, topics relating to this latter population will be covered such as pre-1900 black education and the black presence in an early Pennsylvania county. Perhaps one of the most refined and exacting records of the black experience in Pennsylvania is found in the work of black writers, artists and genealogists. Several presentations will center on such work. A special film session will highlight the career of Paul Robeson.

Finally, one session will deal specifically with revising public school curriculum to include in an effective way materials on the black experience in Pennsylvania and American in general. All sessions will operate as forums, with queries and information from attendants encouraged. The conference luncheon will honor internationally renowned sculptress Selma Burke, and the Pittsburgh Afro-American historian, Walter Worthington.

Location

The Allegheny Campus is one of three that comprise the Community College of Allegheny County. It is located one mile from the Golden Triangle on Pittsburgh's Northside, in the Monument Hill area overlooking Three Rivers Stadium. In 1966 the Allegheny Campus began operations in several old buildings with about 900 students. Today, it has several new structures and the student body has grown to about 7,000 full and part-time students.

The College's curricula are designed to serve both students who are interested in career planning and those students planning to transfer to four-year institutions. The curricula are in the Liberal Arts area, including the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as in technological offerings such as the Computer Sciences and Allied Health Programs. The student body served by the campus are primarily graduates of the public school system of inner-city Pittsburgh. Students in the surrounding communities who are seeking an academic program only available at the Allegheny Campus also comprise a major proportion of the College's enrollment. The Allegheny Campus aims to continue efforts to provide educational and career opportunities for the diverse urban community of metropolitan Pittsburgh.

Lodging

Hotel accommodations are available both in downtown Pittsburgh and in the Northern section of the city. Some downtown hotels are The William Penn (412-281-7100), and The Pittsburgh Hilton (412-391-4600). Both hotels are convenient to all major means of transportation, including limousines operating regularly from the Pittsburgh Airport. These hotels are about a 15 or 20 minute drive from the Allegheny Campus. In the Northern Pittsburgh area there is the Sheraton-North on McKnight Rd. (412-366-5200), also about a 20 minute drive from campus.

Registration

Registration can be made either in advance or at the conference. The registration fee is \$5.00, and \$2.00 for students. The \$5.00 fee covers all activities at both days of the conference including admission to all sessions, a meal at the Luncheon and the film program at the Hill House. The \$2.00 student fee also covers all activities except the Luncheon.

MAIL THE FORM TO:

Miss Flora Russell
A.S.A.L.H., Pittsburgh Branch
1106 Premier Street
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to the Association for the
Study of Afro-American Life and History,
Pittsburgh Branch.

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Mr. Tony Summers, Adviser to B.L.A.C.

Conference Coordinator: David McBride, P.H.M.C.